

NOTES ON EDUCATION.

The fund just distributed in Maryland to the public schools for white pupils amounted to \$50,313.84.

Prof. Harris of St. Louis is suggested for President of Indiana State University in place of the late Dr. Nutt.

The Summer Scientific School, at Peoria, began its sessions last week with 30 pupils. The sum demanded for scholarship tickets is \$15; lecture tickets simply are \$3.

The number of schools in New-Hampshire in 1874 was 2,502; number of pupils, 69,178; wages of masculine teachers, \$48.87 per month; wages of feminine teachers, \$33.30.

The Professorships of Greek and Mathematics as well as the Presidency of Kenyon College are now vacant. Large subscriptions were promised on condition that the Rev. Phillips Brooks of Boston accepted the Presidency.

The Missouri Constitutional Convention has adopted, without amendment or debate, a section establishing separate schools for the colored population. The Convention will be petitioned to recognize the Kindergarten in the organic school law of the state.

In the last ten years the sum of \$21,290,505 has been voluntarily subscribed in England and Wales toward the maintenance of elementary schools under inspection, and the annual amount derived from this source has risen from \$1,388,800 in 1864 to \$3,051,630 in 1874.

The Worcester Technological School has just graduated a class of 19. This commencement was marked by the bestowal for the first time at this institution of the degree of Bachelor of Science. Graduates of the four preceding years received the degree with the graduates of this year.

The endowment of the University of Pennsylvania has been very largely increased this year, as well as that of Dartmouth College. Another Pennsylvania college has also shown evidences of material prosperity—Washington and Jefferson College at Washington, Penn., where a new college edifice has been erected.

Harvard is said never to have had so many applications for admission as this year. More than 250 candidates have presented themselves. The policy of the Faculty is avowedly to increase the age of students before entering. The average age of applicants this year is 19, which was about the age at which many graduated during the earlier rule at Cambridge. The increasing popularity of the college is becoming almost an embarrassment, and from the lack of facilities for the board of so many students the expense of a course is reported to be considerably increased.

The Kirtland School of Natural History was opened in Cleveland last week. The sessions are four hours long. The object of the organization is thus described by an authority: "Our schools are paying more attention now formally to scientific objects, and we wish to educate the teachers especially so that they may instruct the young minds under their charge. The time is coming when schools will demand such instruction to the health of American children in the city schools as is not due to the courses of study or amount of work assigned to the pupil, but chiefly to the blinding incapacity of the teacher." The school will make a short shift of the impenetrable notion of educating children under 12, to "industrial pursuits." Possibly a little time may profitably be given to the instruction of young girls in sewing. But the proposition to use the time of children whose only opportunity of school culture is five or six years, in fitting them for an honorary "station life," will not be accepted. If we can awaken the mind, the heart, the imagination of the child, put into his soul the first elements of knowledge, and into his hands the golden key to guide him on his way toward the real education of American citizenship; we can safely leave him with Providence and American society to determine his final status in the social scale. The second "next step" in the organization of our common schools, which did not come until the middle of the century, was the conversion of our elementary school into the school of the last century, the secondary school. The third "next step" in the organization of our secondary schools was the beginning of school life. I have little expectation that the kindergarten will be adopted as a portion of the common school. This school will make a short shift of the impenetrable notion of educating children under 12, to "industrial pursuits."

Dr. Le Conte remarked that the organizations of Mr. Cope, with the exception of the formation of the Fresh-water Society, which was now confirmed, of the several made by himself in 1867. Dr. Le Conte then described the last of the schools, the Sunday-school, which did not come until the middle of the century, the conversion of our elementary school into the school of the last century, the secondary school. The third "next step" in the organization of our secondary schools was the beginning of school life. I have little expectation that the kindergarten will be adopted as a portion of the common school. This school will make a short shift of the impenetrable notion of educating children under 12, to "industrial pursuits."

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In the absence of its own, and that Prof. Le Conte's observations were made on a line within nearest point of approach to the region under consideration is about 100 miles.

race of life. After that he can study whatever his tastes prompt him to study and his means or leisure afford him opportunity. For this system avoids waste of time, and energy. Common sense is beginning to be recognized as the sovereign in this age. Sentimental and fanciful theories must give way to practical.

In a paper on "The Common School," read last week before the American Institute of Instruction, the Rev. A. D. Mayo of Springfield, Mass., asserted that what is needed first is a new course of study or a model school, wisely adapted to the education of the vast majority of American children who can only be kept at their books five or six years. "And this," said Mr. Mayo, "means nothing less than a reorganization of our entire system of elementary education, for city and country, so that the American elementary school shall be an institution complete in itself; not a lifeless limb of a tree, torn away from the trunk, but a true people's school, sustained with the infinite purpose of doing the best with the myriad of children who with difficulty can be kept within its walls till the period of graduation. Of course I do not urge that the present graded school system shall be destroyed, but that the needs of the minority, who will wait the whole 12 years' course from the primary through the high school, be in any way disregarded. I only state the growing conviction of thoughtful men in all professions, no less than eminent educators, that this mighty army of children, who can come to the national feast of knowledge but five or six years, shall first be provided for; sit at the first table, be waited upon by the best trained servants, and served with food most carefully prepared to make good republican sons and muscle and blood. Such a people's elementary school would include both the sexes in similar methods and equal opportunities. Co-operation before a committee of the four preceding years received the degree with the graduates of this year.

The Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences: June 16—A paper entitled "A Critical Review of the North American *Saccogynidae*," by Dr. Elliott Coues, U. S. A., was presented for publication and referred to a committee. Prof. Cope stated that the fossils known to occur in the Santa Fe Marl included 27 or 28 species, all of which are mammalian with the exception of four.

Three species of rodents were observed, also three of *Cavia*, two of *Thomomys*, and a Mastodon already described. The genus *Aphelops* was distinguished from *Rhinoceros* by possessing three incisor teeth and no nasal horn. Two species were described and named *A. megabodus* and *A. jennerae*. A new species of horse was described and named *Hippotherium calcarinum*. Two species of another new genus were indicated under the names *Hippotherium haemorrhoidalis* and *P. calcarinum*. A new fossil rabbit was also characterized and named *Panomys sordidulus*. Mr. Pelegro stated that he had found living Vibrios and Bacteriae in the substance of disintegrated nerve fibers occurring in sound teeth in which there had been no communication with the outer air. Mr. Whittle described the course of a hurricane which had lately crossed N. Carolina. The track was only about a quarter of a mile, and from the way in which the masses of the American children are finally outside the school-house. It must secure the best possible care of the physical health of children. I believe the New-England practice of forcing infants of five—once it was four—years of age into the crowded public schools, a serious mistake, and greatly prefer the Western limit of six years as the beginning of school life. I have little expectation that the kindergarten will be adopted as a portion of the common school. This school will make a short shift of the impenetrable notion of educating children under 12, to "industrial pursuits."

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